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look or act like the traditional "mother of the world," but she really does bring service of recognized value to families at their most dependable and sincere moments, and can be a sort of detached source of strength to them in their weariness. It is all very real and increases both one's respect and one's humility.

At the same time there is a constant stimulus to one's sense of humor as a wholesome lever. The small school boy who brings forth the unanswerable argument during one's school talk, that his grandfather never had a tooth brush in his life and never lost a tooth; the great husky man who picks up a howling youngster on each arm and sings lustily and tunelessly to quiet them; the young Jewish child who tells you innocently that her first name is "Hades";—these are but poor examples of the incidents which make one laugh through half the day, and understand people better.

As a direct benefit to me, I consider my three years' training of inestimable value, for it provided a purpose which required persistent interest, an active outlet for emotions, a practical knowledge of the basic rules of normal living and a useful foundation for almost any future activity. I wish that my satisfying experience could help to lead others into the interesting field of educational nursing work.

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## DR. LORENZ AND THE CRIPPLED CHILDREN OF THE SOUTHWEST

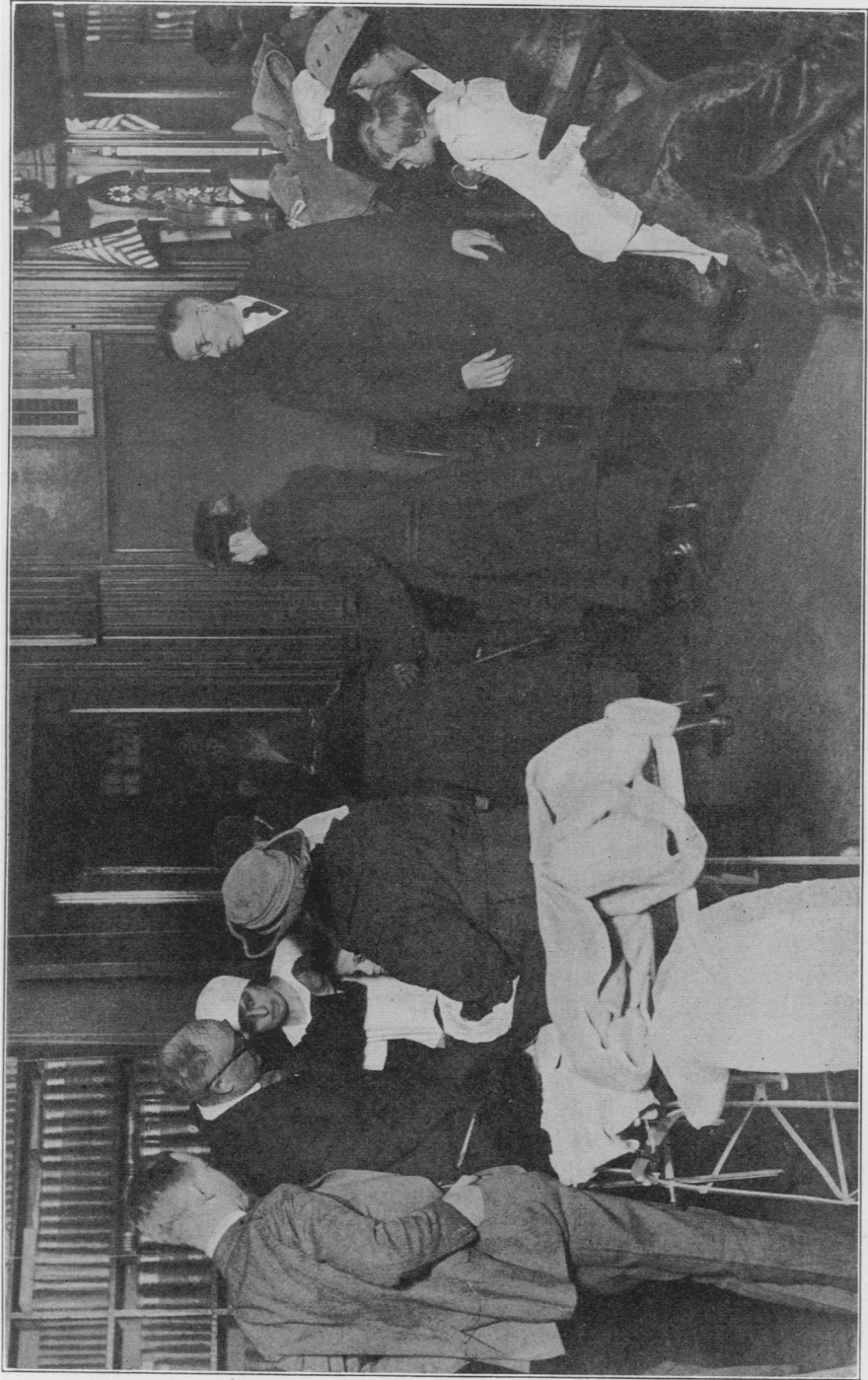
A DEMONSTRATION OF THE VALUE OF PUBLICITY AND A SPLENDID  
DEMONSTRATION OF PROFESSIONAL COÖPERATION

BY GRACE L. ANDERSON, R.N.

*St. Louis, Missouri*

**H**EWYWOOD BROUN, of the *New York World*, says that "If doctors knew a little more about the newspaper business they would realize that even if he had fought it tooth and nail, Dr. Lorenz could not possibly have avoided the eager attention and scrutiny of the press," also that "orthopedic surgery is not beyond the need of advertising." He goes on to say that although hundreds of cases could have been treated just as well by local surgeons, again and again it had been revealed that the parents had never thought of taking their children to anybody until they read about Dr. Lorenz in the newspapers. They had no idea what orthopedic surgery was, nor of what it could do.

The *Post Dispatch* of St. Louis, stirred by the fact revealed in Dr. Lorenz's clinics, worked out a campaign of publicity to bring out



EXAMINATION OF CRIPPLED CHILDREN IN ST. LOUIS

the crippled children of the city for examination, treatment and cure. It was first of all ascertained that St. Louis had adequate facilities for the care of all who needed help. With the local Medical Society a plan was evolved, and a notice appeared daily in the *Post Dispatch* in the name of the Medical Society, offering free consultation and hospital care to all crippled children whose parents could not afford to pay for treatment. Knowledge of crippled children was sought from all who knew of cases not under care. January 23, 24 and 25 were set aside for the preliminary examinations.

Four hundred and seventy-three names were received. One hundred and twenty-three children lived outside the city, most of them in near-by towns in Illinois and Missouri, but names were also sent from Ohio, Iowa, Kansas, Arkansas, and Texas. No requests were ignored. The thirty-six nurses of the Municipal Nurses' Association visited all homes in the city to get details regarding the condition of the children, the necessity for transportation and the social condition of the parents. All deformities were examined, clubfeet, bowlegs, knockknees, tuberculosis of the spine, hip, and knee; infantile paralysis, curvature of the spine,—congenital dislocations, etc. Members of the automobile club furnished closed cars and drivers to carry the children to and from the clinic.

The clinics were held from 9 to 12 and from 1 to 5, each of the three days. Fifteen physicians were in attendance at each session, representing the orthopedic surgeons, general surgeons, pediatricians, and neurologists of the society's membership. Fifty-one different physicians gave some portion of their time to this work. The automobile service was also extended to the Municipal nurses so that no time should be lost in collecting all necessary data. A complete index card was made out by the nurses, giving the nature and duration of the deformity, the facts about previous and present treatment, the economic status of the family, etc.

It was necessary to have a corps of nurses present to assist at the examinations and the *Third District of the Missouri State Nurses' Association* volunteered to supply nurses from their membership. Fifty in all were needed, and none failed to respond when called upon. They were all nurses engaged in *private duty* in the city. If obliged to answer a call, each nurse left money at the registry to pay a substitute in her absence.

The Children's Aid Society sent its workers into any homes where a social problem was brought to light through the survey of the Municipal nurses.

In making the examinations, the nutrition of the children, as well as all nervous and mental disorders were considered by the

experts. A complete diagnosis of each child with reference to all abnormal conditions was written and given to the Public Health and Instruction Committee of the Society, who with the examining physicians assigned the children to the treatment or hospital best fitted to the individual cases. The different hospital clinics were then notified and assumed the responsibility for the continued care of the children.

The interest in this game of the Pied Piper was not confined to St. Louis. Kansas City's Medical Society has plans for a similar campaign in that city. Governor Hyde instructed the State Board of Health to consider an adaptation of the plan for the state and the Director of Child Hygiene, Dr. Ira Krause, attended the examinations to see how the state at large might benefit from further work.

The *Journal of the American Medical Association*, commenting editorially, said:

One outcome of the publicity given to the visit of Dr. Adolph Lorenz was the bringing to light in New York City of knowledge of a number of crippled children who had received no competent medical attention. The medical profession has always been ready to give its services freely to such unfortunate children, but through ignorance of our language, neglect on the part of parents, or for other reasons, many of these patients have not made use of the means available for their cure and relief. \* \* \* It is a commendable and sincere effort sanely to utilize the advantages of publicity for aiding the crippled children of the community. It is a form of effort which, since time immemorial, the medical profession has been wont to conduct quietly and unostentatiously. It is now proved that a considerable foreign element in our community which was not being reached through regular channels can be reached to some extent through newspaper publicity methods. The medical profession of Missouri is to be commended on its sincerity of purpose and on the manner in which it has attacked the problem. Let it be remembered, however, that the publicity is being used in searching out patients for free treatment, that the effort is wholly philanthropic and not a matter of personal aggrandizement. The newspapers give the space, and the physicians give their services.

It is too early to tell what the results will be in individual cases, but here are some facts. Four hundred and seventy-three applications were received and investigated; 248 children appeared for examination; 235 of this number needed care. It is estimated that 80 per cent can be benefited or cured; 10 per cent may not improve and another 10 per cent may be regarded as hopeless, being of obviously low grade mentality. These latter cases, however, cannot go unattended. It is the opinion of the committee that their care should be assumed by the State, and here is shown the need for homes for the feeble-minded children. The committee also recommends a separate school for crippled children. St. Louis has splendid special schools, but none for this class.

The need for the establishment of some social agency that shall be responsible for the attendance of the children at clinics for a long period of time was evident. Mothers cannot, in many instances, leave the home and neglect other children to make the many long and tedious trips necessary if the children are to be cured. More Municipal nurses are needed to give instruction in feeding and hygienic care. This is a direct community responsibility. The out-of-town children as a rule, had received no treatment, showing the great need for health work in isolated communities. The committee declare their work just begun. Taking account of stock has been illuminating and will be productive of far-reaching results in city and country alike.

As Heywood Broun said, "Orthopedic surgery is not beyond the need of advertising." By the way, it is singular that the foreign born, always the scapegoats, are so much more easily reached by the press than by word of mouth. It would be interesting to know how many of these children come from our native-born population. The question is fundamentally one of economics rather than nativity.

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## THE SOCIAL LIFE OF STUDENT NURSES

BY EMILIE SARGENT, A.B., 1916; R.N., 1920

*Detroit, Michigan*

THE writer makes no claim as an authority on any phase of nursing education, but because of her deep interest in the subject presents her reflections on the social life of student nurses from the point of view of a recent graduate. The term social life is here conceived in its broadest sense as covering not only recreation, but all those contacts and experiences which create group initiative and loyalties.

There is no disputing the fact that the chief business of a nursing school is to teach students how to care for the sick in the most approved, scientific manner. As the apprentice age is past, we will assume that a standard school provides the adequate theoretical and practical training to enable its graduates to enter the field of their preference, that is, institutional, private duty or public health. And as there is always a goal to reach we would say that a standard school not only aims to produce skillful nurses, but socialized women as well.

The public has flung wide the door of opportunity to nurses to prove themselves the prime factors in making health the concern of the community rather than the business of the medical profession alone. There are over 11,000 public health nurses in the United States we are told by the National Organization for Public Health